

25
Mar ~~30~~ 1865

Since the summer of 1864 Grant
had besieged Richmond and Petersburg.

The progress of the siege had been slow
but persistent until, some after the
middle of Feb. 1865, he began to
consider the eventuality of abandoning
both cities.

He infused an energy into his sortie
18 Mar 75, which, though the attempt

was unsuccessful; demonstrated that
there was still a great deal of fight in him
and his Army. The Union lines did not entirely
encircle Richmond & Petersburg but left open
an avenue of escape to the west and southwest
the Railroads to both cities were in operation
Grant feared the union of Lee's & Johnston's army